

Inside Washington

- THIS WEEK'S NEWS FROM



Will Congress Throttle 'Counter-Spy'?

The editors of the now-notorious publication *Counter-Spy* insist they will continue to finger CIA officials in foreign countries, despite the December assassination in Athens of Richard Welch, who was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery last week. *Counter-Spy*, which has identified over 200 U.S. officials as CIA operatives, had, at least twice, disclosed that the CIA was the real employer of Welch, who was serving in the U.S. Embassy in Greece before being gunned down by left-wing terrorists.

While the liberal media have sharply criticized, *Counter-Spy's* listing of active agents, with even the *Washington Post* stressing that this practice makes U.S. officials so named sitting ducks for revolutionaries; there has been the tendency to palm off *Counter-Spy* and the group that publishes it, the Fifth Estate, as a sort of liberal-chic operation.

But liberal chic it is not. A number of key backers of the Fifth-Estate/*Counter-Spy* operation have a good deal more in mind than alerting the public to the "excesses" of the CIA and cleaning up the agency's supposedly more unsavory activities. As one of *Counter-Spy's* influential editors, the 25-year-old Douglas Porter, told HUMAN EVENTS last week, *Counter-Spy's* aim is to eliminate the CIA completely, to wipe out our chief foreign intelligence service.

Porter, moreover, has also said that, despite Welch's murder, the Fifth Estate proposes to "hang tough" on the CIA and that the next issue of *Counter-Spy* will expose additional agents in Angola, France, and Sweden. "We want to make this issue of intelligence operations endure beyond the chicness of it all," Porter has asserted.

Briefly, *Counter-Spy*, by blowing the covers of hundreds of CIA agents abroad, will knowingly continue to endanger the lives of loyal, American officials, in effect, knowingly providing left-wing revolutionaries with a "hit list."

Far from being just a bunch of liberal ideologues, some of the prime movers behind the Fifth Estate/*Counter-Spy* operation are,

of the United States and ardent supporters of Communist causes around the world. *Counter-Spy* editors have even expressed a certain sympathy with the aims of the pro-Marxist Symbionese Liberation Army, the terrorist group that kidnapped Patricia Hearst.

For instance, in the Fall 1974 issue, *Counter-Spy* flatly states: "The SLA, as any objective reading of their communiqués and documents will show, considered themselves to be fighting the forces of fascism in America. The Fifth Estate exists for a similar reason." *Counter-Spy* says it disagrees with the path pursued by the SLA, but it asserts its disagreement in such a way that the reader could easily infer that *Counter-Spy* believes the SLA's tactics are wrong only for the present. Indeed, *Counter-Spy* says that "armed struggle is not, at this time, a valid tactic for opposing the forces of reaction," a remark that certainly suggests it may be in order in the future.

The *Counter-Spy* editors have also suggested that U.S. government agencies should do virtually nothing to counter home-grown terrorists in this country. In the same Fall 1974 issue, *Counter-Spy* pointed out that some readers had criticized a major article on the SLA because it had seemed to imply "that the Fifth Estate opposed countering terrorism."

Counter-Spy's response? "While we are not necessarily opposed to countering terrorism—a rational argument can be made for such methods in certain instances—we are alarmed at the possibilities of terrorism becoming the 'bogey man' of the 1970s. At this point we feel that the threat posed by terrorism to most Americans is less than that posed by many of the agencies that concern themselves with our security."

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Counter-Spy's editors, then, are not only purposely pursuing a course that invites the murder

The Quarterly Journal Of The Fifth Estate

COUNTER-SPY

Vol. 3 Issue 1 Fall 1974 \$1.50

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of U.S. officials abroad, but they are also advocating the neutralization of America's internal security apparatus, an effort that can only enhance the power of terrorists in the United States.

Nor should this be surprising, considering many of those working for the Fifth Estate/*Counter-Spy* operation. For instance, *Counter-Spy* has been working closely with ex-CIA agent Philip Agee, who said in the Summer 1975 issue: "The most effective and important systematic efforts to combat CIA that can be undertaken right now are, I think, the identification, exposure and neutralization of its people working abroad."

Who is Agee? Agee was a CIA operative in Latin America during the 1960s, who defected, and now lives in London. In 1974, he wrote the book, *Inside the Company: CIA Diary*, an exposé of the U.S. intelligence-gathering organization.

On July 11, 1974, he told Richard Eder, a New York Times reporter, that: "I did not write this book for the KGB. I wrote it for revolutionary organizations in the United States, in Latin America and everywhere else. I wrote it as a contribution to the Socialist revolution." Agee also admits that he received special help in preparing his book from "representatives of the Communist party in Cuba" who "gave me important encouragement at a time when I doubted that I would be able to find the additional information I needed."

In commenting on Agee's book for the New York Times Book Review of Aug. 3, 1975, Walter Pincus, a liberal journalist, said Agee employed "Marxian polemics," probably collaborated with Cuban intelligence officials on his book to disrupt CIA activities in Latin America, and distorted his whole case by excluding references to bombings, strikes and guerrilla warfare activities of the Soviets and the Cubans.

Tim Butz, a top spokesman and one of the three editors of *Counter-Spy*, has also been active in pro-Communist activities. A former SDS activist at Kent State University in 1969 and 1970, Butz later worked full-time for the pro-Marxist, pro-Hanoi Vietnam Veterans Against the War. The House Committee on Internal Security published in 1971 a picture of Butz, reprinted on this page, standing before a lectern draped with the Vietcong flag. The picture was taken in February, when he was addressing a pro-Hanoi group at the University of Michigan.

Frederick Branfman, 34, is a member of *Counter-Spy's* Advisory Board. Rep. Larry McDonald (D-Ga.), who on July 18 of last year did a remarkable in-depth study of the Fifth Estate and *Counter-Spy*, had this to say about Branfman:

Upon his return to the United States from Indochina in 1971, "Branfman immediately took a leadership role in the ranks of the so-called 'anti-war' propagandists supporting the North Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian Communist insurgents. On May 4 [1975] in Washington, D.C., Branfman joined with Arthur Kinoy, David Dellinger and other leaders of the revolutionary National Interim Committee for a Mass Party of the People for a Lafayette Park 'celebration' to honor the blood-stained Communist victory in Vietnam."

David Dellinger, who has called himself a non-Soviet Communist, also serves on the *Counter-Spy* Advisory Board. The Manchester Union Leader pointed out in 1970 that Dellinger sent greetings on Oct. 17, 1965, to *The Worker*, then the official organ of the U.S. Communist party; that he sponsored the DuBois Centennial Year celebration of *Freedomways*, a publication cited as subversive by the House Committee on Un-American Activities; that he belonged to or sponsored a host of Communist fronts, including the Medical Aid to Cuba Committee, the Youth Against War and Fascism, the W.E.B. DuBois Clubs of America and various pro-Hanoi groups.

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Another member of the *Counter-Spy* Advisory Board is Frank Donner, who has been identified three times as a member of the Communist Party, U.S.A. Called before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in 1956 and confronted with a Civil Service Commission questionnaire on which he had answered 'no' to membership in a Communist organization, Donner invoked the 5th Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. During the 1960s, Donner was general counsel for the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, a union expelled from the CIO in 1950 because of its pro-Communist record. Donner currently is head of the American Civil Liberties Union's political surveillance project at Yale Law School.

The list of hard-core radicals or revolutionaries who play important roles in the production of *Counter-Spy* does not end here. Marcus Raskin of the Institute for Policy Studies, Anthony J. Russo, a former defendant in the Pentagon Papers case, and Mark Lane, an activist attorney, are also members of the Advisory Board.

Counter-Spy, in short, is not just another "liberal" publication. It is comprised of those who bear such an abiding animosity toward the American government and the American way of life that they frequently favor our Communist enemies and would even consciously endanger the lives of loyal U.S. intelligence officials.

Clearly, Congress should undertake as one of its first acts of business in the New Year the investigation of all those connected with the Fifth Estate/*Counter-Spy* operation, with a view toward drawing up appropriate legislation to prohibit any group of magazine from jeopardizing the American intelligence community.